

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**Frank J. Beafore**  
**1424 Regency Drive**  
**Xenia, Ohio**  
**45385**

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Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street  
Washington, DC 20554

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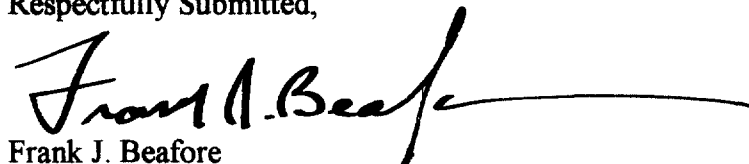
FCC MAIL ROOM

May 5, 1998

Dear Sirs:

Attached, please find my formal response to RM 9267 and the related 4 copies.  
Should there be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Frank J. Beafore

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**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554  
May 21, 1998**

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MAY 23 1998

FCC MAIL ROOM

In the Matter of )  
  
Proposed Reallocation of 420 )  
To 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz )  
From the Federal Government to )  
The Private Mobile Radio Service )  
)

RM 9267

**Re: Comments on RM9267, reallocation of frequency bands 420-430 and 440-450 MHz for Private Mobile Radio Service.**

I am Frank J. Beafore of 1424 Regency Drive, Xenia, Ohio, 45385 and a Licensed Radio Amateur – call sign: WS8B. I have been a Radio Amateur since 1976. Please submit my comments on the above matter.

When Amateur Radio was founded in early 1900, the prime purpose was to create an environment for the study of the new science of electronics and have a ready-trained group of radio operators in the event of a national emergency. This purpose was fulfilled many times in this century.

In addition to the above purpose, Amateur Radio also provides emergency communication daily. In fact, only an hour prior to the writing of this document, I was

engaged in an emergency weather network for early warning of severe weather circumstances. This activity is conducted in conjunction with NOAA and is part of the early warning, weather service for Columbus, Ohio and areas East of Dayton. We had an especially busy time because of the sat-com outage that provided pager and cell-phone services. During the storm, our public service, central-communication system (fire and police services) went down due to a lightning strike. Currently, Radio Amateurs are assisting in this problem. Volunteer activity like this goes on every day throughout our country.

Amateur Radio operators cross-train throughout our country and the World in common emergency communication technique and can / have been dispatched throughout the country or around the Globe to assist in natural disasters.

For local emergency and public service communications in North America, Amateur Radio operators use the 2-meter (144 – 148 MHz) band and the 70 cm (420 – 450 MHz) band. The 2-meter band is used for longer distance voice communication with some digital signals while the 70-cm band is used for shorter, line-of-site communication and data signals. In congested areas, 70 cm is in greater use for voice.

The loss of use of the 70 cm would be tragic in many respects. This would remove a major frequency resource for emergency communication as well as reducing a broad spectrum of radio frequency for research and development of newer communication methods.

The resources that Amateur Radio provides have been used in all national emergencies. It provided ready-trained radio operators in WWI, WWII and the Korean conflict as well as MARS (Military Amateur Radio Services) during the Viet Nam and

Gulf Wars. Today MARS is operating to provide communication from other trouble spots in the world including Bosnia.

Amateur radio provides the backbone communication for FEMA, The American Red Cross, NOAA and many other national and local emergency operations at no cost to the taxpayer. With the downsizing of Federal programs, Amateur Radio operators and volunteers have filled the gap.

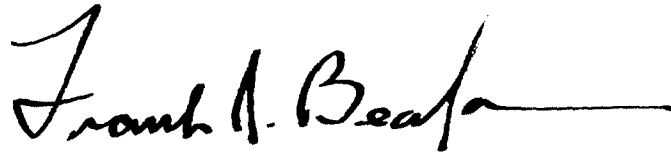
When we have emergencies ranging from local storms to major international conflicts; we will experience loss of communication resources, systems and trained operators should we adopt RM 9267. Our local loss of communications at our police and fire operations and the loss of a major communication satellite were a recent example of how we can lose traditional communication systems. In a national conflict, the backbone of our modern communication systems, communication satellites, will be knocked-out or destroyed. With the elimination (via RM 9267) of valuable Amateur Radio spectrum (70 cm band), we will destroy secondary ground-based communication systems.

The losses of an entire radio spectrum band not only takes-away needed bandwidth from public safety communications but also erodes valuable resources for training new Amateur radio operators. Amateur radio privileges are available to anyone, any age that resides in the United States and can pass a FCC examination. In addition to other volunteer duties, I am also a certified volunteer FCC examiner. It has been my observation, through teaching radio theory and testing, that Amateur Radio is an excellent occupier of the young mind. I've also observed that most, if not all, young Amateur Radio operators become contributing technical-professionals as adults. This avocation also keeps young minds and souls busy with an exciting past time. Clearly, with the loss

of this spectrum space, we add to the erosion of an excellent training ground for our young people.

As an Amateur Radio Operator and an emergency service volunteer, I urge the FCC to maintain the current Amateur Radio status of this frequency band. I would be very happy to comment further on this subject in writing or in person should it be needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank J. Beafore", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Frank J. Beafore, May 21, 1998

End of Comments

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